
REGULAR SEMI-MONTHLY MEETING

May 24, 2022

The regular semi-monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Hanover Township, Northampton County, was called to order by Chairman John Nagle at the Hanover Township Municipal Building, 3630 Jacksonville Road, Bethlehem, PA, 18017 at 7:00 P.M.

Present were Supervisors Warren, Lawless, Diacogiannis, Prendeville, Engineer Brien Kocher, and Solicitor Anthony Giovanni.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Upon motion of Ms. Lawless, seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the agenda.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

Upon motion of Ms. Lawless seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the minutes from the meeting of the Board of Supervisors dated May 10, 2022.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis abstain, Mr. Nagle aye.

Upon motion of Ms. Lawless seconded by Mr. Warren, the Board approved the list of bills and transfers dated May 24, 2022.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Kelly Kempfer of 2621 Oakside Circle requested an update from the Board about water pressure issue with the fire hydrants.

Mr. Giovanni reported that emails were exchanged and there is a study being conducted and nothing can be discussed further until results from the study are reviewed.

Joan Steinberg of 4417 Tracey Lane stated concerns she had over Hanover Township's Organization Chart and requested supporting documents at meetings be posted online for residents to have access to.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Mr. Nagle reported that he attended the ceremony for the St John Chrysostom Academy Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on May 15, 2022.

Mr. Nagle requested the audience join him in a moment of silence for the tragic school shooting in Texas that happened early in day May 24, 2022.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Mr. Prendeville has nothing to report.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Mr. Nagle – Road District #1, reported an overgrown bush in driver's vision by Dr. Amatos Office.

Mr. Diacogiannis– Road District #2, had nothing to report in Road District #2 but updated that Officer Scott Breneman will graduate from the Police Academy on June 10th, 2022. Following graduation, he will be assigned to a field training officer at CRPD.

Mr. Warren – Road District #3, had nothing to report in Road District #3 and echoed Mr. Nagle’s sentiments for the Texas School Shooting.

Ms. Lawless – Road District #4, had nothing to report in Road District #4 and requested supporting documents to be public on Mondays before Board Meetings.

Mr. Prendeville – Road District #5, had nothing to report.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS – BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

PLANNING & ZONING – Ms. Lawless

Zoning Hearing Board – 200 W Macada Rd

The applicant requested relief to construct a building addition and driveway requiring multiple variances.

The Board does not want to send representation to the hearing scheduled for June 23, 2022.

Hold Harmless – 5764 Monocacy Drive.

Ms. Lawless moved the Board authorize the Chairman and Secretary to sign the hold harmless agreement for the installation of a fence on the property located at 5794 Monocacy Drive, Bethlehem, PA 18017. The proposed structure will encroach into the fifteen -foot Township drainage and utility easement located in the side yard of the Premises.

Mr. Warren seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

ADMINISTRATION – Mr. Diacogiannis

Township Insurance

Mr. Diacogiannis moved the Board authorize the Township Manager to execute the applicable paperwork to renew the Township’s insurance policies effective June 1, 2022.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

Preschool License Signature

Mr. Diacogiannis moved the Board authorize the Township Manager to sign the application for certificate of compliance for the Preschool.

Mr. Prendeville seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

Nepotism Ordinance

The Board discussed having an ordinance versus our current policy concerning Nepotism. Mr. Nagle will contact Mr. Harrison from the solicitor’s office to opine on the subject matter at the suggestion of Supervisor Diacogiannis. Mr. Diacogiannis stated if Mr. Harrison was comfortable with our policy he would be as well.

Mrs. Joan Steinberg stated there should be an ordinance and indicated that eleven Township employees were “related” and a few years ago it was believed that unless you knew someone you couldn’t get a job with the Township.

Mr. Dale Traupman indicated he was comfortable hiring the most qualified and there was no need for an ordinance.

DEVELOPMENTS- Mr. Warren

6904 Steuben Road – MPC Deadline

Mr. Warren noted for the record the developer of 6904 Steuben Road has granted an extension for the MPC Deadline to May 31, 2023, per their letter dated May 16, 2022.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

Farmhouse Village – MPC Deadline

Mr. Warren noted for the record the developer of Farmhouse Village has granted an extension for the MPC Deadline to August 31, 2022, per their letter dated May 16, 2022.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

6292 Hanoverville Road – MPC Deadline

Mr. Warren noted for the record the developer of 6292 Hanoverville Rd has granted an extension for the MPC Deadline to August 31, 2022, per their letter dated May 16, 2022.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

4098 Bath Pike – Improvements Deadline

Mr. Warren moved the Board grant the developer of 4098 Bath Pike an extension to August 18, 2022, to complete the improvements, per their request letter dated May 16, 2022.

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

Hanover Flex Center – Maintenance Period

Mr. Warren moved the Board per the recommendation of Hanover Engineering’s letter dated May 16, 2022, end the maintenance period, release the remaining escrow and close-out the Hanover Flex Center, 5000 Township Line Road project, conditioned upon the Developer adhering to Township Policy 8 (payment of Plans and Appeals Accounts).

Ms. Lawless seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

PUBLIC WORKS

Pool

Mr. Finnigan and Mr. Kocher provided an update on the pool design progress. Mr. Finnigan indicated that as recently as yesterday the Pool Advisory Group and Township staff had furnished BKP with details on internal walls including widths and height. This was needed to be included in bid package. Mr. Finnigan & Kocher discussed the meeting (via ZOOM) with the architect, engineer that we had with the Conservation District and the analysis they were requiring relative to storm water. Mr. Kocher indicated that due to the soils surrounding the pool, we'd need to prove that our alternative plan would be appropriate. The Township should prevail, but it will take time.

GM Quotes

Mr. Prendeville moved the Board approve the quote for the purchase of three 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 HD Trucks at the quoted price of \$44,380.00 each, the vehicles were all budgeted items.

Mr. Diacogiannis seconded the motion.

Mr. Warren aye, Ms. Lawless aye, Mr. Prendeville aye, Mr. Diacogiannis aye, Mr. Nagle aye.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR

Joan Steinberg of 4417 Tracey Lane requested the Board look into alternative options like a bump track being installed within the Township, so youth bike riders have a place to go outside of the parks.

Lisa Outcalt, Preschool Director, stated that several weeks of Preschool Camps are sold out, currently 13 children enrolled in Preschool for Fall, 20 enrollments would be break-even.

STAFF REPORTS

Engineer – Mr. Kocher had nothing to report

Solicitor – Mr. Giovanni had nothing to report.

Township Manager – Mr. Finnigan reported that Beth Ritter asked that no one report directly to her and passed out new Organizational chart to note the shift in direct reports.

Mr. Finnigan stated “I know what I am about to say is going to seem quite personal to some of the people in this room, but as we’ve been reminded perception is sometimes reality, or distorted reality.

I’m sure most, if not all of us, will remember the 1995 movie – “The American President” starring Michael Douglas & Annette Bening.

One of the most memorable segments has been captured in a YouTube Video labeled “the Final Speech”. While totally not applicable it contains some salient points.

- It references character
- It cites unwillingness to engage
- Being the TM is all about character
- Not hiding behind mouth pieces

- I’ve chosen not responded to attacks at meetings or in public forums
 - When I did, I was chastised by board members
 - I was not allowed to defend myself

At this point I’d like to read the following letter into the record:

Dear Chairman Nagle:

When I announced my retirement effective August 31, 2022, at the April 26, 2022, meeting of the Board of Supervisors that was my intention. After much soul searching, I realized I had come to that decision in late 2021 as a result of my unwillingness to continue to work in an environment that was becoming increasingly hostile, and I no longer wanted to deal with the erroneous accusations and comments both privately and in the public domain.

The last twenty-eight days have convinced me I was wrong to notify the Board of Supervisors of my intention to retire. After hours and hours of conversations with residents, our business and community leaders, peers and former peers, public service individuals and Township staff, I came to the realization that retiring was the easy way out.

I was at a Eagle Scout Presentation Ceremony this weekend and was reminded of John F. Kennedy's Inauguration Speech when just before his most recognizable & remember quotes ("And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.") he spoke these words, "I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it.

Saturday evening Mona and I stopped at the Spot for an ice cream. A member of one of our volunteer boards shared with me their concern that social media posts concerning public officials unfortunately go unchecked, unchallenged, and their validity never is validated.

It's often been said that timing is everything in life. The Eagle Scout Presentation Ceremony, the social media post on Friday, the timing of which is very suspicious, and my conversation at the Spot further reinvigorated the fire in my gut not to succumb to a hostile environment or give up when the going gets tough.

I will not retire on August 31, 2022, as previously announced, but will remain as Township Manager to continue to fight for those same individuals I've had conversations with over the last twenty-eight days. As one resident and neighbor commented to me, "you should be able to retire under your terms."

I will continue to work to ensure that Hanover Township is a Great Place to Live, Work and Play through cooperation and the same energy I've always possessed. I will also continue to lead our Township staff, who are in my opinion, second to none.

Sincerely,
John J. Finnigan, Jr."

Upon motion of Mr. Diacogiannis the Board adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Beth A. Bucko
Assistant Secretary